

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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ALABAMA STATE TROOPER CLASS GRADUATES ***44 New Troopers Join Ranks of Alabama Highway Patrol***

MONTGOMERY — Forty-four new Alabama state troopers were sworn into service Thursday during graduation ceremonies in Montgomery. Alabama Department of Public Safety Director Col. W.M. Coppage administered the oath of office to commission the new troopers, and Attorney General Troy King commended their commitment to the public's safety in addressing the graduates, their families and guests.

Gov. Bob Riley congratulated the graduating troopers and praised their career in public service and law enforcement as "a high calling." Riley said, "As new state troopers, you are essential to preserving and protecting the safety of all who travel Alabama's roadways. On behalf of the people of Alabama, thank you for your willingness to take on these challenges. I congratulate you on your accomplishments and wish you all the best."

"Each member of State Trooper Class 2004-A has worked hard to earn the commission of Alabama state trooper. With this achievement comes the great responsibility of serving and protecting the people of this state, and the graduates of Class 2004-A have demonstrated that they are up to the task," said Coppage.

Coppage said the new troopers are a welcome and critically needed addition to the state trooper force. "The ranks of our state troopers are far too thin, and we see the tragic results of that throughout Alabama each day," he said. "Alabama needs and deserves the level of protection and service that an adequate number of troopers can provide."

The new troopers bring Alabama's total number of state troopers to 660, some 300 short of the number needed for adequate enforcement. Thursday's graduation is the first trooper class graduation since July 2003, when 26 new troopers were commissioned. Coppage said DPS is committed to working with Riley and other state leaders to address the need for more troopers.

Alabama's newest troopers completed 23 weeks of rigorous training at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma in preparation for initial duty assignments in the Highway Patrol Division. They will soon report to trooper posts throughout Alabama to begin 10 weeks of field training under the supervision of veteran state troopers.

Earlier in the week several class members were recognized for outstanding achievement among their peers. Kyle S. Hobbs earned the Academic Award for achieving the highest overall grade point average. Jeffrey C. Lamon received the Highway Response and Driving Award for demonstrating a high level of knowledge and ability in defensive and pursuit driving. The Firearms Award went to Thomas J. Averette for exhibiting the highest level of knowledge, skill and safety in firearms training. Fitness Awards went to Michael L. Hildred for attaining the highest level of physical fitness and Ulane L. Jamison for achieving the most improvement in physical fitness.

Hildred also was named the class's top performer overall, receiving the Commander's Award for exhibiting exceptional leadership, professionalism and dedication to Class 2004-A and the Department of Public Safety, while maintaining a high academic average.

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for more information contact:

Public Information/Education • P.O. Box 1511 • Montgomery AL 36102-1511

(334) 242-4445 • <http://www.dps.state.al.us/>

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Alabama State Trooper Class 2004-A

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>County</u>
Raymond E. Abrams	Jacksonville	Talladega
Tierre D. Agnew	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa
Thomas J. Averette	Selma	Dallas
Lamarcus T. Baker	Decatur	Limestone
Phillip S. Baker	Dothan	Henry
Steven D. Battles	Birmingham	Blount
Broderick Bender	Jacksonville	Talladega
Aubrey A. Bishop	Selma	Perry
Ryan A. Church	Decatur	Cullman
David D. Council	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa
Gerald C. Deas	Tuscaloosa	Sumter
James G. Eubanks	Mobile	Baldwin
Christopher L. Fails	Selma	Dallas
Christopher B. Faulk	Evergreen	Butler
Brian P. Faulkner	Decatur	Lawrence
Tony S. Fleming	Decatur	Lawrence
Jacob B. Gwaltney	Montgomery	Lowndes
William T. Hanks	Evergreen	Monroe
Ronald W. Harper	Decatur	Lawrence
Zachary B. Harrelson	Opelika	Macon
Jeffrey A. Harris	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa
William K. Harris	Birmingham	Walker
Michael L. Hildred	Jacksonville	Cleburne
Kyle S. Hobbs	Opelika	Russell
Ulane L. Jamison	Montgomery	Montgomery
Nathaniel Jones Sr.	Birmingham	Blount
Steven W. Kelley	Evergreen	Crenshaw
Jeffrey C. Lamon	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa
Darryl A. Littleton	Montgomery	Montgomery
Brian J. Manley	Selma	Perry
Tavarus S. Moore	Mobile	Choctaw
Luke E. Privett	Decatur	Morgan
William W. Pruitt	Huntsville	Madison
Robert A. Reid	Birmingham	Blount
David S. Richards	Birmingham	Walker
James Z. Richburg	Selma	Wilcox
Michael B. Roberts	Birmingham	Shelby
Avery D. Smith	Jacksonville	Calhoun
James E. Smith Jr.	Birmingham	Shelby
Andrew L. Sutley	Montgomery	Montgomery
Lonnie T. Welch II	Jacksonville	Cleburne
Shawn P. Wheat	Mobile	Baldwin
James D. Wright	Opelika	Bullock
Ranger L. Wright	Montgomery	Montgomery

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